

I have no doubt that when we succeed in building the first National Women's History Museum, MARCY KAPTUR will be prominently represented.

MARCY is an inspiration to women and girls across the country who aspire to lead—who aspire to participate in their democracy.

I am proud to have partnered with her on these and so many other issues, and am thankful for her years of service.

CALLING FOR THE END OF THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR AND FOR PRESIDENT BASHAR AL-ASSAD TO STEP ASIDE

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the seventh anniversary of the Syrian people's demand for democracy, which began on March 15, 2011.

As a senior Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have watched President Bashar al-Assad commit a catalogue of the most barbaric crimes during seven years of civil war. These include his use of chemical weapons against civilians, his mass imprisonment and murder of his own citizens, and his deliberate shelling of noncombatants. His violence has created a catastrophic refugee crisis, and the death toll from his brutal war is in the hundreds of thousands.

Worse, Russia and Iran have been keen to expand their influence in Syria—no matter the human cost. Not only has Vladimir Putin propped up Assad militarily, but he has provided diplomatic cover for Assad's crimes. Further, Tehran has entrenched itself in Syria by mobilizing and training numerous proxy fighters. This expanded influence undermines American interests, threatens Israel, and further destabilizes the Middle East.

I encourage the Administration to work with Congress and our allies to bring this war to a needed conclusion; one that transitions Syria into a post-Assad future.

TRIBUTE TO GORDON KOKENGE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gordon Kokenge of Clarinda, Iowa who recently retired after twenty-eight years of service to the City of Clarinda as a member of the City Council and as Mayor. Gordon was elected in 1988 to the City Council and as Mayor in 2005.

Gordon has served Clarinda with honor, dedication, and with determination to improve the lives of every citizen. During his tenure he has been a leading force in economic development in Clarinda to help develop new industries and help save local companies that have now prospered and expanded. Many citizens in Clarinda supported Gordon because of his insight, knowledge, commitment to the city, and his concern for the city's budget. He has a reputation of working for the good of the

city. Clarinda City Manager Gary McClarnon said, "Gordon has been a very good leader for the city and will be remembered as a great leader for the city during his time as a City Councilman and Mayor."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Gordon for taking an active role in his community. Gordon's commitment is not only for Clarinda but for all of Southwest Iowa. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for his service and wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARGARET PERKINS, CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Margaret Perkins, a Civil Air Patrol volunteer from New York's 21st District who is being honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Margaret was born on November 17, 1917, and attended Rochester Institute of Technology, Skidmore College, and Columbia University. After training to fly aircraft at the Lewis Lavery Air School in Round Lake, New York, Margaret received her pilot's license from the Civil Aeronautics Authority in 1943 at only twenty-four years old, and became the first female licensed pilot in Saratoga County. As a member of the Civil Air Patrol during World War II, Margaret flew anti-sabotage missions to ensure the security of dams and other structures. She also shuttled single-engine military observation aircraft between airports at the request of the U.S. Government.

In gratitude and recognition of her service in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II, Margaret is being honored with the Congressional Gold Medal. The Medal is the highest civilian award presented by the U.S. Congress as its highest expression of national appreciation for outstanding contributions.

It is no doubt that Margaret contributed significantly to U.S. success in World War II, and I am extremely proud to rise today in honor of her achievements. New York's 21st District is forever grateful for Margaret's courageous service to her country.

THE SYRIAN SLAUGHTER MUST END

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the past few weeks has brought an unfortunate intensification of the Syrian Civil War as the Syrian government, aided by Russia, continues to bomb rebel-held towns and cities in Syria—including targeting hospitals. This worsening crisis puts even more innocent civilians at risk as the fighting moves closer to heavily populated areas.

We should not make the same mistakes as the Obama administration, whose "strategic

patience" allowed Russia to get a foothold in the Middle East by propping up the brutal dictatorship of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and obstructing peace efforts by the UN Security Council. Putin is knowingly allied with murderers.

That is why I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 1677, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2017, which would sanction anyone responsible for hindering access to humanitarian relief in Syria as well as any person who knowingly provides support to the Syrian Government in their attempt to acquire ballistic missiles. The House passed H.R. 1677 last year, and I urge the Senate to pass this bill as well.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING CARLOS CHAIREZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carlos Chairez for his exceptional service to his community and his country.

Mr. Chairez valiantly served his country during World War II as a Private First Class in the United States Army. Mr. Chairez served in the European Theater of war as a member of General Patton's Third Army, Fourth Armored Division. As the war came to a close, his division was converted into the peacekeeping constabulary force. With great confidence and great strength, Mr. Chairez helped create victory and a better world.

Mr. Chairez embraced his country in a time of great need. He went into a perilous domain and fought to preserve democracy and install freedom. He helped to bring peace to a region torn apart by the ravages of war.

Mr. Chairez has been happily married for almost 70 years to his wife Margarita, has 4 children, and 7 grandchildren. His love for his family and country is unparalleled and I deeply admire his dedication, charisma, and willpower. He is an outstanding role model for us all. I am honored and privileged to thank such an extraordinary man. I hope he continues to be a reminder to us all to never forget no sacrifice is too great or small.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE ACT OF 2018

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to reintroduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act, authorizing a national initiative to attack a major health problem in the United States that cannot be remedied through the health care system alone. Increasing rates of overweight and obesity are now found in Americans of every age, race and other major demographic groups, and threaten the health of Americans like no other disease or condition. In fact, the key to eliminating many of the most serious health conditions is